



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

Tom Horne  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

NEWS BULLETIN  
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CONTACT:  
Certification Unit, (602) 364-2300

**Guidance Regarding the Approved Areas of Language Arts/Reading,  
Mathematics, Social Studies and General Science  
(Effective date: 4-14-2007)**

**Middle Grades Language Arts/Reading (grades 7-8)**

Teachers holding a valid elementary teaching certificate who desire to teach middle grades language arts/reading must pass the AEPA Middle Grade Language Arts/Reading exam or the AEPA English exam (grades 7-12) **unless** they have the approved area of Middle Grades Language Arts/Reading or English already posted on their teaching certificate.

Teachers holding a valid secondary teaching certificate who desire to teach middle grades language arts/reading must pass the AEPA Middle Grade Language Arts/Reading exam **unless** they have the approved area of English already posted on their teaching certificate. Otherwise, they must pass the AEPA Middle Grades Language Arts/Reading exam or the AEPA English exam (grades 7-12). **A middle grade approved area may only be attached to a secondary teaching certificate if it is listed as an additional approved area.**

**Middle Grades Mathematics (grades 7-8)**

Teachers holding a valid elementary teaching certificate who desire to teach middle grades mathematics must pass the AEPA Middle Grade Mathematics exam AEPA or the AEPA Mathematics exam (grades 7-12) **unless** they have the approved area of Middle Grades Mathematics or Mathematics already posted on their teaching certificate.

Teachers holding a valid secondary teaching certificate who desire to teach middle grades mathematics must pass the AEPA Middle Mathematics exam **unless** they have the approved area of Mathematics already posted on their teaching certificate. Otherwise, they must pass the AEPA Middle Grades Mathematics exam or the AEPA Mathematics exam (grades 7-12). **A middle grade approved area may only be attached to a secondary teaching certificate if it is listed as an additional approved area.**

### **Middle Grades Social Studies (grades 7-8)**

Teachers holding a valid elementary teaching certificate who desire to teach middle grades social studies must pass the AEPA Middle Grade Social Studies exam or the AEPA Social Studies exam (grades 7-12) **unless** they have the approved area of social studies already posted on their teaching certificate.

Teachers holding a valid secondary teaching certificate who desire to teach middle grades social studies must pass the AEPA Middle Grade Social Studies exam **unless** they have the approved area of social studies already posted on their teaching certificate. If they have an approved area of geography, history, economics, or political science/government on their secondary teaching certificate, they are not appropriately certified to teach middle grades social studies. They must pass the AEPA Middle Grades Social Studies exam or the AEPA Social Studies exam (grades 7-12). **A middle grade approved area may only be attached to a secondary teaching certificate if it is listed as an additional approved area.**

### **Middle Grades General Science (grades 7-8)**

Teachers holding a valid elementary teaching certificate who desire to teach middle grades general science must pass the AEPA Middle Grade General Science exam **unless** they have the approved area of general science already posted on their teaching certificate. Elementary certified teachers may not add the approved area of general science to their teaching certificate based on 24 hours of coursework.

Teachers holding a valid secondary teaching certificate who desire to teach middle grades general science may either pass the AEPA Middle Grades General Science exam or submit 24 credit hours in general science including 12 credit hours in life science and 12 credit hours in physical/space/earth sciences. If a secondary certified teacher passes the AEPA Middle Grades General Science exam, they will be Highly Qualified to teach 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade General Science only. If a secondary certified teacher uses 24 hours to have the General Science added as an approved area, they are Highly Qualified to teach 7-12 grades General Science. Classes accepted to meet the 12 credit hours requirement in life science include: agriculture, anatomy, biology, biochemistry, botany, ecology, environmental science, microbiology, physiology, and zoology. Classes accepted to meet the 12 credit hours requirement in physical/earth/space sciences include: astronomy, chemistry, earth science, geology, meteorology, physical geography, and physics. Acceptance of coursework not listed above will be evaluated based on a review of course descriptions provided by the candidate.

NOTE: The Arizona Department of Education does not complete informal evaluations of transcripts.

The 7-12 general science approved area certifies the secondary certified teacher to teach “General Science” (grades 7-12), “Integrated Science” (grades 9-12), and “Thinking Sciences” (grades 9-12). The general science approved area does not certify a teacher to teach physical science, physics, geology, etc.

The 24 credit hour General Science coursework option is not available to elementary certified teachers.

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